

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a notification to a telephone user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device, comprising:  
receiving information indicating incoming data directed to one of a plurality of devices of the user, the data being in the form of one of a plurality of data types; and  
transmitting a notification to the user's preferred device, the notification including an identification of the type of the incoming data.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
receiving user selection of the preferred device.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
receiving a user selection of a time period during which notifications are to be transmitted to the preferred device.
4. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
receiving a user selection of a device for which notifications are to be transmitted to the preferred device.
5. The method of claim 1, comprising:  
receiving a user selection of calling parties from which notifications are to be transmitted to the preferred device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the user selection of calling parties comprises using a calendar function for specifying date-specific notifications.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising receiving user specifications of a preferred device for receiving notifications based on at least one of the time of day or calling party.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving user selection of the preferred device comprises receiving selection of a wireless phone capable of displaying text messages.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving user selection of the preferred device comprises receiving selection of a landline phone.

10. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving user selection of the preferred device comprises receiving selection of a desktop or laptop computer.

11. The method of claim 2, wherein receiving user selection of the preferred device comprises receiving selection of a handheld device.

12. An apparatus for providing a notification to a telephone user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device comprising:

a first server function for receiving information indicating incoming data to one of a plurality of devices of the user, the data being in the form of one of a plurality of data types; and

a second server function for transmitting a notification to the user's preferred device, the notification including an identification of the type of the incoming data.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, comprising:

a database for storing identifications of calling parties from whom notifications are transmitted to the preferred device.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the database stores times during which notifications are transmitted to the preferred device.

15. A method for providing a notification to a telephone user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device comprising:

receiving information from a calling party calling one of the plurality of devices;

generating a notification corresponding to the received information; and

generating a signal to the preferred device to display a real-time notification.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein generating the notification includes the name and phone number of the calling party.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the notification includes the date and time, type of communication, and access method.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein generating the notification further includes a voice mail message.

19. An apparatus for providing a notification to a communications user having a plurality of devices including a preferred device comprising:

means for receiving information indicating incoming data to one of a plurality of devices of the user, the data being in the form of one of a plurality of types; and

means for transmitting a notification to the user's preferred device, the notification including an identification of the type of the incoming data.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, comprising:

means for selecting parties from which notifications are transmitted to the preferred device.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the means for selecting indicates times during which notifications are transmitted to the preferred device.